



REDEFINING WEALTH

Eco Practicum Catskills Itinerary, Summer 2018

- Learn permaculture basics
- Witness a lamb slaughter and take a nose to tail butchery workshop (optional)
- Dig into the complexities of rural economic development

Eco Practicum Catskills is an eye-opening educational experience for current college students and recent graduates passionate about ecology, economy, and justice. Redefining Wealth takes place on a rustic 125 acre campus two hours from New York City in a region that is home to the world's largest unfiltered drinking water system, an abundance of land suited for agriculture, one of the newest casinos in New York State, as well as some of its most impoverished towns.

Our 2018 practicum will focus on some of the most pressing issues facing rural areas today: How do we create wealth without engaging in violence or extraction? What role does local agriculture play in a regional economy when it is overshadowed by the global food system? What are the systems that keep people poor? Part think-tank, part action-workshop, participants live on an environmental education facility in the heart of the Catskills and get the opportunity to farm, learn from peers, and meet with the foremost experts in the field.

DATES

June 10–16, 2018

TUITION

Program tuition is \$895 (\$1500 with a \$605 scholarship automatically available to all participants). Tuition includes housing, food, and transportation for the duration of the program. Fellowships that provide additional tuition reductions are available for select participants.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Our schedule is dynamic and full of activity, so every day at Eco Practicum is a little different. Within the variety of activities and field trips, there is a general routine that helps guide the schedule.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday - Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
12pm Orientation	8am Breakfast	8am Breakfast	11am Brunch
1:00 Lunch	9:00 Farm work	9:00 Peer-led Learning	11:30 Processing &
2:00 Hike & Tour	12:30 Lunch	12:30 Lunch	Group Discussion
4:00 Group Activity	1:30 Fieldwork	1:00 Peer-led Learning	2:00 Evaluations
7:00 Dinner	6:30 Dinner	6:30 Dinner	3:00 Departures
8:00 Group Activity	8:00 Group Activity	8:00 Group Activity	

Group Activity varies in methodology and setting, depending on the needs of the group. It can take the form of group discussion, text study, film screening, game, personal reflection, art project, debate, charette, hike, free-write, etc.

Peer-led Learning gives participants the opportunity to practice their teaching skills and share their passions with one another. Participants are asked to offer an activity / mini workshop on a topic of their choice, and are given guidance and support by the Eco Practicum facilitators.

Fieldwork takes place on or off site with an expert representing one of our partner organizations.



METHOD

Meeting Experts

Every day, participants take a field trip to meet with an expert in the field, representing one of the partner organizations. Participants tour facilities, meet with staff members, and learn about how these organizations function on the ground. These encounters often include a hands-on component and always include a candid conversation with the speaker about the work that they do, relating to both their achievements and challenges.

Farming & Land Stewardship

Participants work on an on-site organic farm, an urban-style farm, and a forest garden. They learn techniques in permaculture, composting, and animal husbandry. In addition to farming, participants manage the water flows, rain catchment systems, and waste outputs, gaining holistic ecosystem and natural resource management experience.

Democratic Education

Through text studies, videos, discussions, and peer-led activities, participants share their knowledge, learn from one another, and analyze the dynamics of the Catskills bioregion. The place-based learner centered educational approach honors the different ways that people learn. Democratic pedagogy ensures a horizontal structure in which students and educators alike express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. This practicum is facilitated by Eugenia Manwelyan and Tal Beery.

Eugenia Manwelyan is an artist, ecologist, and educator. She is the co-founder of Eco Practicum, and has taught food planning courses at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Eugenia holds a BA in International Development from McGill University and her MS in Urban Planning from Columbia University. She has worked on environmental planning projects in India, Vietnam and Jordan, as well as a peace building arts project in Israel and Palestine. With a passion for democratic education and civic engagement, Eugenia is committed to taking part in the effort to reorient humanity toward sane and respectful coexistence with one another and the environment.

Tal Beery is a New York-based artist and educator. He is co-founder of Eco Practicum and founding faculty at School of Apocalypse, examining the connections between creative practice and survival. Beery is a core member of Occupy Museums, a collective fighting economic & social injustices propagated by arts institutions. His curatorial research considers the relationships between art and epochal change. Beery's works have been exhibited in museums and galleries in the US and Europe, including the 2012 Berlin Biennale, Brooklyn Museum, and the 2017 Whitney Biennial.

ACTIVE HOURS

<i>Farm Work</i>	<i>Fieldwork</i>	<i>Learning Activities</i>	<i>Total Hours</i>
12	20	31.5	63.5

MEETING THE EXPERTS

Eco Practicum participants meet with professionals, farmers, activists, and policy-makers who represent organizations that have a tremendous impact on the environment and society. These are the organizations we encounter during the program*:

- Boiceville Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Catskill Watershed Corporation
- Catskill Mountainkeeper
- Dirie Raw Milk Dairy Farm
- Root N' Roost Farm
- Snowdance Farm
- Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management
- Watershed Protection & Partnership Council / NY State Department of State
- Woodland Weavers' and Spinners' Guild



DETAILED ITINERARY

SUNDAY

Settling In and Reading the Landscape

- Arrive on site, settle in, and get to know each other
- Food foraging workshops and edible hike with Nathaniel Whitmore

MONDAY

Permaculture as Farm and Framework

- Spend the day working at Root N'Roost biodynamic farm, learning about their systems of food production, water management, and energy production.

TUESDAY

Water Water Everywhere

- Go boating on the Ashokan Reservoir with Catskill Watershed Corporation and learn about the New York City watershed, which makes up the largest unfiltered drinking water system on Earth
- Tour the Boiceville Wastewater Treatment Plant and learn about the technologies behind water management

WEDNESDAY

Development vs. Self-Gentrification

- Walk along two different Main Streets with the Sullivan County Department of Planning and Environmental Management and consider two very different paths for growing economic opportunity in depressed rural towns.
- Meet with staff from Catskills Mountainkeeper and learn about the grassroots efforts that defeated the fossil fuel industry and got fracking banned in New York State.

THURSDAY

Pets, Pests, Livestock

- Witness a lamb slaughter at Snowdance Farm with farmer Marc Jaffe, President of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sullivan County.
- Nose-to-tail lamb butchering workshop and lamb barbeque with special guests
- Create own felted wool masterpiece with the Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild
- Pick up some raw milk directly from the Dirie family at one of the few remaining dairy farms in the county.

FRIDAY

The Art of Reflection

- Work on personal and collaborative creative projects to process what we've learned together.
- Share your passions and expertise by running and participating in peer-led mini-workshops

SATURDAY

Evaluations and Farewells

- Provide feedback and let us know what resonated and how we can improve.

**Please remember that with so many moving parts, the schedule may change in the days leading up to the program. We do ensure great alternates for all trips and partner visits if the need arises.*